



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-1

Subject: Double Stack Cars (Structural Failure) DTTX 720000 through 720789

From: Edward R. English
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators,
Motive Power & Equipment Specialists and Inspectors

Region 8, MP&E Inspector, G. W. Perez has reported that the Union Pacific recently experienced two structural failures on articulated intermodal cars. The cars involved were manufactured by the Thrall Car Company. The failures reported occurred at the attachment of the diagonal braces and side sills to the shear plate.

One incident of failure occurred on the "E" unit of a 5 unit car on the "A" end, between the shear plate, diagonal braces, and left and right side sills (49 inches from the end sill) permitting the belly of the car to fall to the rail.

In 1992, certain DTTX and SFLC 125 ton double-stack cars had a potential for failure in the container floor breakout protection structure.

MP&E Inspectors should perform a close inspection of this equipment and promptly report any structural exception taken to Mr. Ron Newman, MP&E Staff Director, at 202-632-3345 with documentation and photographs. This should be done ASAP.

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